

Implementing the EU – Central Asia Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation



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WECOOP2

EU-Central Asia enhanced regional cooperation on
Environment, Climate Change and Water

This project is funded by
The European Union



Stantec umweltbundesamt^U



Union and implemented by the consortium led by Stantec, with the Austrian Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt)
and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus (REC Caucasus) as the consortium partners.

Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation

- EU-Central Asia Working Group on Environment and Climate Change – operational mechanism for the implementation of the Platform
- A specific EU-funded project (WECOOP):
 - Secretariat of the Working Group,
 - Technical organisation of the meetings,
 - Development and implementation of specific activities in Central Asian countries



WECOOP – what is it?

- *Regional Coordination and Support for the EU-Central Asia enhanced Regional Cooperation on Environment, Climate Change and Water project*
- WECOOP2:
 - August 2016 – August 2019;
 - Budget: EUR 1 998 000



WECOOP – outputs

- Activity area 1: Dialogues
 - Assistance to regional dialogue between EU and Central Asia countries, in particular through the Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation and the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change
- Activity area 2: Capacity Building and Policy Advice
 - Policymaking and implementation in water/environment/climate change in Central Asia responds more adequately to existing challenges and increasingly incorporates international best practices
- Activity area 3: Communication/mapping/analysis/networking



Activity area 1: Dialogues

- Organisation of forums for dialogues:
 - Meetings of the Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (4)
 - Support to Policy Dialogues in Central Asia under UNECE Transboundary Waters Convention including EU Water Initiative (8)
 - Clinic Workshops (2)
 - High-Level Conference in Tashkent
- Lessons learned:
 - *Permanent membership in WGECC is crucial for effective work (at least 2 years)*
 - *WGECC needs a Steering Committee*



Activity area 2: Capacity Building and Policy Advice

- Capacity building:
 - Tailor-made training events (6)
 - Investors Guide
 - Regional Knowledge Centre – a web-based platform
- Tailor-made support for investment project identification and preparation for consideration by IFIs
- Lessons learned:
 - *Tailor-made approach is well received by partners in CA countries*
 - *Even for policy priorities, which are common for the entire CA region, individual approach for each country is appreciated*



Activity area 3: Communication/mapping/analysis/...

- Project mapping database
 - All projects (400+) with international funding in 5 Central Asian countries in the field of environment, water and climate change – in one database in English and Russian
 - <http://www.greeninvest-ca.eu/content/project-database>
- WECOOP website
 - <http://wecoop2.eu/>
 - 3100+ active users
- Facebook
 - <https://www.facebook.com/wecoop2/>
 - 7700+ users, 60+ likes and followers
- Lessons learned:
 - *Multiple communication lines add complexity*
 - *Feedback mechanisms to WGECC members should be stronger*



Activity area 3: Communication/mapping/analysis/...

The screenshot displays a web browser with three tabs. The first tab shows the WECOOP2 homepage with a navigation menu and a 'Project overview' section. The second tab shows a news article titled 'Enhanced regional cooperation on Environment, Climate Change and Water'. The third tab shows a project list table on the website 'www.greeninvest-ca.eu/project-list'.

Project overview (from WECOOP2 homepage):

Project overview

The Regional Coordination and Support for the EU-Central Asia Enhanced Regional Cooperation on Environment, Climate Change and Water (WECOOP2) project was launched by the European Union in August 2016. It intends to continue strengthening the dialogue and sustainable development between the Central Asia partners, and to facilitate their cooperation with the EU on environment and climate change. Specifically, the project efforts are concentrating on improving and rationalising the policies and expanding the capacities of national ministries and government agencies active in these areas.

[Read more](#)

News Article (from wecoop2.eu/press-media/news):

Enhanced regional cooperation on Environment, Climate Change and Water

The EU assists Turkmenistan in Environmental Project Management

12 DEC 2018

ASHGABAT – 12 national environmental experts of Turkmenistan took part in the workshop "Strategic Project Management and Financing for Environmental Projects" to learn about development and preparation of environmental project proposals.

[Read more](#)

The EU and AIFC conducted a training on Preparation and Financing of Green Projects

12 DEC 2018

ALMATY – 25 representatives of national and regional organisations, public and private companies took part in the workshop "Preparation and Financing of Green Projects".

[Read more](#)

Project List Table (from www.greeninvest-ca.eu/project-list):


Project Name	Category	Start/End Year	Amount (€)	Link
Capacity building for cooperation on dam safety in Central Asia, Phase III	Water management	From 2011 to 2017	686.120 €	Link
Capacity building for radioactive waste management and early warning systems in the Ferghana Valley	Waste management	From 2011 to 2012	115.833 €	Link
Capacity Building in Development of Policy Framework for Promotion of Low Carbon Emission Societies in Central Asia	Climate Change, Energy, Energy efficiency	From 2010 to 2013	403.600 €	Link
Capacity building of local authority through implementing waste management strategy and actions to increase population awareness into environmental problem of the region	Waste management	From 2011 to 2013	333.000 €	Link
Capacity Building of the National Irrigated Land Reclamation Fund	Environment	From 2009 to 2012	604.796 €	Link
Capacity building on river basin planning for water management organisations and joint river basin structures	Water	From 2011 to 2014	900.000 €	Link

Showing 1 to 50 of 436 entries

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Tailor-made support – background




- “Assistance in translating policies into investment” was defined as one of the key objectives of WECOOP;
 - We have identified a need for bringing together
 - the priorities as understood by the national stakeholders, and
 - priorities as seen by the donors’ community;
- 
- Project activity: “Tailor-made support for investment project identification and preparation for consideration by IFIs”



Tailor-made support – beginning

- February 2018: request was made my WGECC to better address needs of the countries
- March 2018: countries were asked to identify their priority areas and provide potential project ideas;
- Priority areas as pre-defined by the countries:
 - Waste management
 - Air quality
 - Climate change
 - Biodiversity / nature protection
- April – August 2018: on-site visits for scoping and identifying promising project ideas

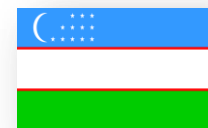
Project ideas identified – waste (HSW)

- Development of solid waste management system in Issyk-Kul region
 - FS and EIA to serve as a model for similar cases 
 - Preliminary discussion document drafted
- Setting up solid waste management system in Dushanbe and Dushanbe Region
 - Preliminary discussion document drafted 
- A set of project ideas from Kazakhstan
 - WECOOP team supports preparation of household solid waste management project in Almaty Region 
 - 8 more project ideas have been identified



Project ideas identified and discussed – air quality

- Improvement of air quality management – proposal for a multi-country TA project (project description drafted):
 - development of comprehensive overview and gap analysis of the existing legislative and institutional framework on AQ assessment and management;
 - preparation of Draft National Strategy on AQ Assessment and Management;
 - improvement of AQ management system in a pilot city including development of a draft AQ action plan;
 - improvement of air quality monitoring system;
 - capacity building.



Project ideas identified – nature

- Capacity development of staff in the nature protected areas in the Kyrgyz Republic
 - Initial project proposal developed and agreed with the potential Beneficiary;
 - Focuses on wardens (rangers) and foresters;
 - Includes establishing and testing professional development and certification system, provision of information and equipment field kits.
- Capacity development of staff in the nature protected areas in Western Turkmenistan
 - Project idea needs further development



Direct WECOOP activities in the countries (1/2)

- A study tour to Austrian EPA with a series of seminars on Environmental Information Systems for experts from Uzbekistan:

- October 2018



- Training workshop on EU requirements and approaches on Air Quality Governance for the local experts in Kyrgyzstan:

- October 2018



Direct WECOOP activities in the CA countries (2/2)

- Assistance finalising the draft Environmental Code regarding the main principles of European environmental law
 - December 2018 – January 2019
- Project preparation and management training for the local experts
 - October – December 2018



Investors guide

- Available at <http://wecoop2.eu/> as an Adobe Acrobat (pdf) file in English and Russian languages: <http://wecoop2.eu/useful-resources/publications>



- Structured guidance for Central Asian professionals on development of bankable project proposals;
- General guidelines and best practice for preparation of project proposals;
- Information on the requirements and conditions, set by various donors and IFIs.



Regional Knowledge Centre

- A web-based platform, available in English and Russian languages at <http://www.greeninvest-ca.eu/> (also through <http://wecoop2.eu/useful-resources/regional-knowledge-centre>).
- Supports development and preparation of environmental projects in Central Asia providing regional stakeholders with relevant information and guidance all available in one place.
- Interactive features – user area, on-line interaction.
- Will stay functional after WECOOP will end.



Elements of WGECC working plan

Activity	Time	Responsible
Preparation of a training course on water quality / urban waste water treatment [on request]	February 2019	WECOOP 2
Replication of WECOOP training courses (project preparation and management – TJ, KZ, air quality – UZ, KZ) [on request]	April-July 2019	WECOOP 2
Training on water quality /urban waste water treatment (on request – any of CA countries [on request]	April-July 2019	WECOOP 2
Tailor made support 2 nd phase – scoping on site visits – inputs to WECOOP3 [on request]	April-July 2019	WECOOP 2
WG Steering Committee meeting (Almaty or EU)	June 2019	WECOOP 2
Update of the Investors Guide	July 2019	WECOOP 2
Preparation of the Regional Knowledge Centre and WECOOP 2 web site for handover	July-August 2019	WECOOP 2
9 th meeting of WGECC (Brussels or another EU city)	End November or early December 2019 or February 2020	WECOOP 3



Thank you for your attention!

www.wecoop2.eu



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